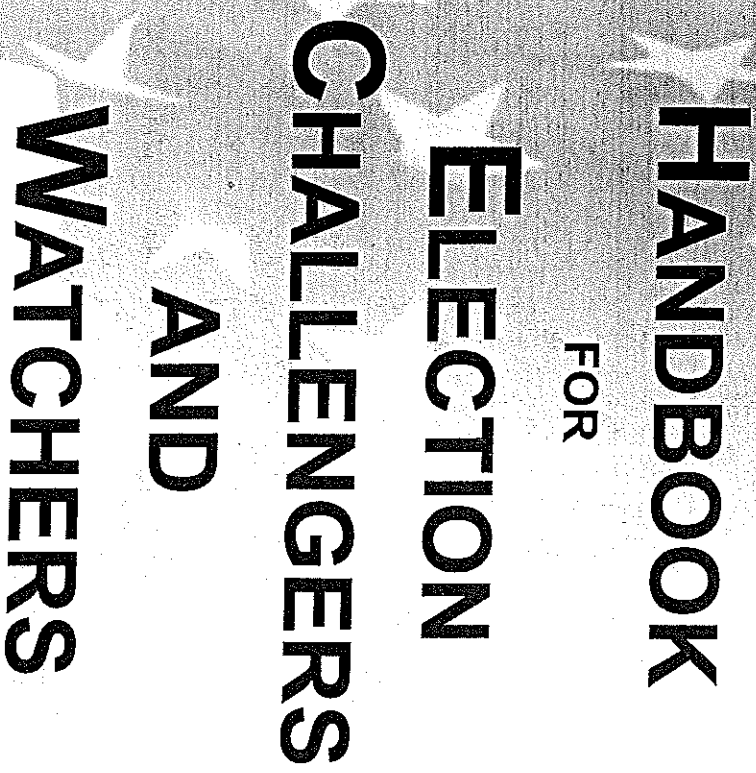


BUREAU OF ELECTIONS



HANDBOOK FOR ELECTION CHALLENGERS AND WATCHERS

ISSUED BY
BUREAU OF ELECTIONS
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87503

CHALLENGERS

Appointment

- A. The county chairman of each political party represented on the ballot may appoint in writing one CHALLENGER and one ALTERNATE CHALLENGER for each precinct.
- B. If any county chairman fails to make such appointments the precinct chairman of the political party may appoint in writing one CHALLENGER and one ALTERNATE CHALLENGER for that precinct.
- C. If any precinct chairman fails to make such appointments, or if no person properly appointed is present at the polling place and offers to serve, the voters present belonging to that political party may appoint one CHALLENGER and one ALTERNATE CHALLENGER in writing.

Qualifications

- A. CHALLENGERS and ALTERNATE CHALLENGERS shall be voters of a precinct located in that county to which they are appointed.
- B. No sheriff, deputy sheriff, marshal, deputy marshal or municipal or state policeman shall serve as a CHALLENGER or ALTERNATE CHALLENGER.

Permitted Activities

- A. A CHALLENGER or ALTERNATE CHALLENGER, upon presentation of his written appointment to the precinct board, shall be permitted to be present from the time the precinct board convenes at the polling place until the completion of the counting and tallying of the ballots after the polls close.
- B. A CHALLENGER or ALTERNATE CHALLENGER, for the purpose of interposing challenges, may:
 - (1) inspect the registration book or precinct voter list for the purpose of determining whether he desires to interpose a challenge;
 - (2) inspect the certified voters list or signature roster to determine whether entries are being made in accordance with the Election Code;
 - (3) examine each voting machine before the polls are opened to compare the number on the metal seal and the numbers on the counters (i.e., protective counter and outside public counter) with the numbers on the (package No. 7) key envelope and to see that all ballot labels are in their proper places and that the voting machine is ready for voting at the opening of the polls; and

- (4) make in any polling place and preserve for future reference written memoranda of any action or omission on the part of any member of the precinct board.

Prohibited Activities

- A. CHALLENGERS and ALTERNATE CHALLENGERS shall not be permitted to perform any duty of a precinct board member. CHALLENGERS and ALTERNATE CHALLENGERS shall not handle the ballots, signature roster, certified voters list, or voting machines or take any part in the counting or tallying of the ballots.
- B. Only one CHALLENGER or ALTERNATE CHALLENGER for each political party in each precinct shall be permitted at one time in the room in which the voting is being conducted.
- C. CHALLENGERS shall not interfere with the orderly conduct of the election.

Interposing Challenges

- A. A challenge may be interposed by a CHALLENGER or ALTERNATE CHALLENGER for the following reasons:
- (1) the person presenting himself to vote is not registered;
 - (2) the person presenting himself to vote is listed on the purge list placed with the signature rosters or is listed among those persons in the precinct from whom an absentee ballot was received;
 - (3) the person presenting himself to vote is improperly registered because he is not a qualified elector;
 - (4) in the case of a primary election, the person presenting himself to vote is not affiliated with a political party represented on the ballot; or
 - (5) in the case of an absentee ballot, the official outer envelope of the absentee voter has been opened prior too the counting of the ballots.

Identification Badges

- A. At all times while they are present in the polling place, CHALLENGERS shall wear uniform identification badges designating them as AUTHORIZED CHALLENGERS of the political party which they represent. They shall not wear any other form of identification, party or candidate pins (i.e., campaign buttons or any form of campaign materials).
- B. Identification badges shall be furnished to the CHALLENGERS by the presiding judge upon presentation of their written appointments.

Precinct Board – Penalty

The act of denying a CHALLENGER or ALTERNATE CHALLENGER, who has presented his written appointment to the precinct board, the right to be present at the polling place or denying him the right to challenge voters and inspect the certified voters list, signature rosters, or denying him the right to witness the counting and tallying of ballots is a petty misdemeanor.

WATCHERS

Appointment

- A. The county chairman of each political party represented on the ballot may appoint in writing two WATCHERS for each precinct. If any county chairman fails to make the appointments, the precinct chairman of the political party may appoint in writing two WATCHERS for the precinct. If any precinct chairman fails to make the appointments, or if no person properly appointed is present at the polling place and offers to serve, the voters present belonging to that political party may appoint in writing two WATCHERS.
- B. In a primary election any group of six candidates for county office for each political party participating in the election may appoint in writing an ADDITIONAL WATCHER for each precinct. No candidate, however, shall join in more than one request for an ADDITIONAL WATCHER.
- C. In a primary election any group of three candidates seeking nomination for statewide or district office may appoint in writing one WATCHER for each of those precincts as they may desire. No candidate, however, shall join in more than one request for an additional WATCHER at any precinct.

Qualifications

- A. WATCHERS shall be voters of a precinct located in that county to which they are appointed.
- B. No sheriff, deputy sheriff, marshal, deputy marshal or municipal or state policeman shall serve as a WATCHER.

Permitted Activities

- A. Upon presentation of his written appointment to the precinct board, a WATCHER may:
 - (1) be present from the time the precinct board convenes at the polling place until the completion of the counting and tallying of the ballots after the polls close;
 - (2) be permitted to observe that the election is being conducted in accordance with the Election Code;
 - (3) examine any voting machine being used in the precinct in the same manner that challengers may examine the voting machines; and
 - (4) make in any polling place and preserve for future reference written memoranda of any action or omission on the part of any member of the precinct board charged with the performance of a duty by the Election Code;

Prohibited Activities

- A. WATCHERS shall not be permitted to perform any duty of a precinct board member. WATCHERS shall not handle the ballots, signature roster, certified voters list or voting machines or take any part in the counting or tallying of the ballots.
- B. Only one WATCHER for each political party in each precinct shall be permitted at one time in the room in which the voting is being conducted.
- C. WATCHERS shall not interfere with the orderly conduct of the election.

Identification Badges

- A. At all times while they are present in the polling place, WATCHERS shall wear uniform identification badges designating them as authorized WATCHERS of the political party which they represent. They shall not wear any other form of identification, party or candidate pins (i.e., campaign buttons or any form of campaign materials).
- B. Identification badges shall be furnished to WATCHERS by the presiding judge upon presentation of their written appointments.

Precinct Board – Penalty

The act of denying a WATCHER, who has presented his written appointment to the precinct board, the right to be present at the polling place, or denying him the right to witness the counting and tallying of the ballots, is a petty misdemeanor.